**Socratic Seminar: The Ring of Gyges**

**Nomen: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Datum: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Seminar Overview:**

This Socratic Seminar will be comprised mainly of questions of ethics. Above all, you all will be discussing why men do good or bad deeds, and what helps or prevents them from doing those respective actions. Using the example of the ‘Ring of Gyges', you will approach the question of whether humanity is inherently good or evil, and how we can deduce this.

**Seminar Question:**

The seminal question to frame your argument for this seminar is:

* *Is mankind inherently evil?*

When you arrive to class, your notes, annotations, citations, and material evidence should be prepared around making a *specific, concrete* argument answering that question.

**Resources**

*You should be drawing and utilizing from the “Ring of Gyges” selection from Plato’s Republic.*

**Expectations**

1. Everyone should be participating. This is a discussion, not a lecture.
2. You *should try to always* use evidence when supporting your arguments.
3. You should be listening respectfully, and paying attention. Do so by *using good body language and eye contact.*
4. Please allow a speaker to finish their thought or question before responding. Do not cut people off to make your own point or ask your own question.
5. Be considerate and open-minded. **The purpose of a Socratic Seminar is not to win an argument. The point is to further your understanding of a topic. The only way to do so is to keep an open mind and fully listen to what others have to say.**
6. Ensure that everyone has had a chance to speak, or has been encouraged to speak. Please consider others if you have been talking a fair amount of the time, and yield to someone who looks like they’ve been waiting patiently. **It is just as important to hear multiple viewpoints from others, as it is to make your own point. This is the only way to test and strengthen your argument.**

**The following below are things to keep in mind:**

* Obviously, the notion of “best” is highly subjective, and it is therefore your conscious choice to decide how you will perceive and describe what you argue to be “best”.
* If you wish to argue in favor of a type of government that is not within the group of examples discussed in class, bring your own material evidence to quote from.
* Be ready to quote evidence by writing down page numbers, specific quotes, paraphrased information, *etc.* You don’t want to spend your speaking time shuffling through pages and forgetting where a key piece of evidence lies hidden.

**Rubric**

Below are the criteria for scoring in this Socratic Seminar:

*There is a total of 25 points to be earned during the seminar. Socratic Seminars will be scored under the “Tests” category, so these points will be valuable.*

1. Participation: you can earn up to **5 points** for participation:

a. 3 points minimum for speaking at least once,

b. 4 points for contributing at least 3 times,

c. 5 points for contributing at least 4 times.

2. Evidence: you can earn up to **5 points** for evidence use:

a. 3 points minimum for referencing information from a text,

b. 4 points for using quoted evidence twice, or quoted evidence once and referencing the text once,

c. 5 points for using quoted evidence at least thrice, or quoted evidence twice and referencing the text once.

3. Preparation: you can earn up to **5 points** for preparation for the seminar:

a. 3 points minimum for bringing your resource.

b. 4 points for bringing your resource, annotated.

c. 5 points for having your resource annotated, and compiling relevant page numbers and quotes, ready to use.

4. Conduct: you can earn up to **10 points** for conduct during the seminar:

a. minimum 5 points for being respectful to all students.

b. 7 points for being respectful for the whole seminar, and for making good eye contact to all speakers.

c. 8 points for being respectful, making eye contact, letting others have their turn to speak, and speaking in a polite, calm, and respectful manner.

d. 9-10 points for all of the above, plus actively encouraging other students to speak and share their opinions.